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HISTORY

succours which he was bound by the treaty of Nimeguen to furnish/ and he adds that William 'had ordered some battalions to march to Harwich, that they might be in readiness to cross to the Continent/ ¹ But the fact that in consequence of the demand of the States-General nearly 10,000 of the best troops in the English army were actually dispatched abroad in March 1689 is not stated. The picturesque account of the mutiny of the Royal Scots which Macaulay gives does not adequately replace the figures which would have made the military situation intelligible.² Similarly in his accounts of battles, where a military historian would give a definite statement of the regiments engaged and their movements, Macaulay substitutes a general description of the fighting.³ This is not due to the defects of the authorities he employs ; they contain sufficiently precise information to enable him to be more exact. In his desire to produce a picture he suppresses details, sometimes those details which are necessary to explain the events he is relating. It is difficult for a civilian to know what the really important details are. A movement which he passes over in silence may be, to the eye of a soldier, the turning point of a battle or the decisive stroke of a campaign. The best thing he can do is to

¹ III, 1346-7 (xi).

² The late king's army besides being mutinous and disaffected is said to have been reduced by wholesale desertion to about half its numbers. Luttrell, i. 494, 505. This is perhaps an exaggeration, but the army was certainly much reduced in numbers and had to be completely reorganised before it could be employed. New regiments had to be raised before Schomberg's expedition could take place. Small detachments such as the two regiments sent to Londonderry under Cunningham in April and three under Kirke in June were all that could be spared. Walter Harris, *History of the Life and Reign of . . . William III (1749)*, pp. 204, 207.

³ Compare for instance Macaulay's accounts of the battles of Steinkirk and Landen (V, 2232-8 [xix], 2355-62 [xx]) with Mr. Fortescue's (*History of the British Army*, i. 361, 370).